

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
BRIEFING SESSION
17 September, 1975

AM

9:30 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

ADMINISTRATION

- A. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 1977.
- B. Temporary Landscaping of Georgetown Waterfront, Memo to Chairman dated 18 August, 1975.
- C. Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 15th Streets, N.W. - Staff Proposals.
- D. Resignation of David R. Rosenthal from the Board of Architectural Advisors for Old Georgetown.
- E. "Official" Nelson Rockefeller Vice Presidential Inaugural Medal - Report.

PROJECT BRIEFINGS

A. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

- 1. Muhlenberg Memorial, Connecticut Avenue & Ellicott Street, N.W., Central Sculptural Element - Resubmission.
- 2. Stable, Fort Dupont.
- 3. Lafayette Park Comfort Station Remodeling.

B. Smithsonian Institution

National Air and Space Museum, Sculpture for North Entrance - Mockup.

C. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

- 1. SL 76-9, 727 15th Street, N.W., Installation of Three Signs, Playhouse Theater.
- 2. SL 76-10, 2525 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Office/Apartment Complex, Sealtest Dairy Site.

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3. Appendix 1.

Old Georgetown Act

Appendix 2.

D. D.C. Government, Fire Department

Proposal to Paint Fireplugs to Represent Bicentennial Characters.

E. National Capital Planning Commission

Georgetown Waterfront Area Plan and Development Management Program - Staff Draft.

F. Redevelopment Land Agency

"Streets for People" Information Kiosk - Resubmission.

G. Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Automotive Maintenance Facility, Bolling/Anacostia Air Base.

H. Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry

United States Coast Guard Medals:

1. Distinguished Public Service Award
2. Meritorious Public Service Award

I. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Bus Shelter adjacent to National Air and Space Museum.

J. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

New Agency Seal.

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
17 September, 1975

AM

10:45 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 15 October, 1975
19 November, 1975

B. Minutes of July, 1975 meeting.

LEGISLATION

S. 64, 94th Congress, "To provide for the addition of the names of the States of Alaska and Hawaii to the list of the forty-eight States inscribed upon the walls of the Lincoln National Memorial."

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

1. Muhlenberg Memorial, Connecticut Avenue & Ellicott Streets, N.W., Central Sculptural Element - Resubmission.

2. Stable, Fort Dupont.

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New Agency Seal.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
BRIEFING SESSION
17 September, 1975

The briefing session convened at 9:30 a.m. in the offices of the Commission of Fine Arts at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:

Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Nicolas Arroyo
Hon. Jane O. Dart
Hon. Kevin Roche
Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith
Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
Hon. George A. Weymouth

Staff Present:

Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
Mrs. Sue A. Kohler
Mrs. Nancy N. Lusher
Mr. David L. Miller

National Capital Planning

Commission Staff Present: Mr. Edward Hromanick

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 1977. The Secretary presented the proposed Commission of Fine Arts budget for fiscal year 1977 as \$210,000. This represented an increase of \$10,000 over the requested budget for fiscal year 1976. The primary changes in the budget were for fixed services. No staff changes were expected. Congressional approval of the Commission's fiscal 1976 budget had not come yet, but it was anticipated that the total figure would be \$198,000, the difference being a \$2,000 printing reduction imposed by Congress. The Commission unanimously approved the budget request.

B. Commission of Fine Arts Staff Project Report. The Secretary asked the various staff members to report on the thrust, progress, and anticipated product of their various activities.

1. Mrs. Lusher reported that she was preparing a sign

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study for the convenience of sign permit applicants who would be dealing with the Commission of Fine Arts. This would include some historical data, examples of good signs, and instructions for dealing with the permit process.

2. Mrs. Kohler reported that she was preparing an updated version of the History of the Commission of Fine Arts. She told that the existing latest such publication was now over ten years old and a bit dull. She indicated that she would include a description of the Commission's activities with examples of projects modified and directed by the Commission up to recent times.

3. Mr. Carson reported that a study of architecture on 16th Street, N.W. was under way and that the study would represent one of the special areas in Washington. He said the study would include some special residences both existing and demolished. Some institutional buildings such as St. John's Church and the Scottish Rite Temple would be covered as well as Meridian Hill Park and typical vernacular buildings. Mr. Weymouth asked about the staff giving professional advice to other agencies such as the Landmarks Committee, to which Messers Carson and Jennings replied affirmatively.

4. Mr. Jennings reported that the Massachusetts Avenue Volume II was at the printers. He indicated that it was more inclusive and refined than its preceding companion volume. It had been professionally designed and had a lower production cost than the previous volume. He reported that the release of the volume would be coordinated with several community activities. Further discussion of this volume was held later during the meeting.

5. Mr. Myer reported that the Bridge Exhibition to be held at the Octagon during November and December 1975 would be coordinated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Press, for a commemorative booklet on the construction of Aqueduct Bridge. He pointed out several photographs to be used in the exhibit had been on display in the Commission conference room throughout the summer. The exhibit would be made up of private bridge illustrations as well as antique photographs and relevant Commission material.

C. Temporary Landscaping of the Georgetown Waterfront, Memo to the Chairman, from the Secretary, dated 18 August, 1975. The Secretary showed the Commission several maps of the Georgetown Waterfront indicating that the majority of the land was public property between K Street and the Potomac River. He had proposed that this land be cleaned



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up of trash and that the City's garbage trucks and other utility functions be eliminated on this site. The present unkempt appearance would be wholly unsuitable for the Bicentennial year. Further, the area was within sight of the monumental core of Washington, as well as the terrace of the Kennedy Center.

In discussions with Mr. Ben Gilbert, chief of the District of Columbia Municipal Planning Office and advisor to the Mayor, the Secretary had been told that the city was considering implementation of resident parking permits for Georgetown streets. This would be a problem for the local merchants, particularly during the Bicentennial year. Thus, the city was considering the installation of public parking lots along the Georgetown Waterfront.

The Secretary said that all of the current consultant and staff studies of the National Capital Planning Commission showed the area designated for public use, promenades, and park. He recommended that simple landscaping would be appropriate immediately, no matter what the future plans for use of the waterfront might be. He indicated that if parking lots were to be built on the waterfront, with some assistance from the Commission of Fine Arts, they could at least be well designed to provide an attractive border to the river.

The Members examined the maps and a 1966 publication on parking lot landscaping by the Commission of Fine Arts. The Chairman and Mr. Stone felt that providing the parking, no matter how well screened, would be less desirable than proceeding directly to a park solution. The consensus was that a clean-up of the area without parking would be the highest priority, but that any parking scheme which would be of imperative necessity may be given the Commission's closest design attention.

EXHIBIT A

D. Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 15th Streets, N.W. - Staff Proposals. The Secretary told the Commission of growing concern and dissatisfaction on the part of the staff and other local planners with the design proposals for the western end of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Plan area. He indicated that the real solution to dealing with the end of the Avenue and the Pershing Memorial site was not in the treatment of Square 226, but the block east in front of the District Building and the National Theater. This had been called the Western Plaza in the Ellicott Plan and could provide the most satisfactory solution to the planning problems in the vicinity. He further stated that it could provide a more satisfactory front entrance and setting for the District of Columbia Government.

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Then the Assistant Secretary showed a series of slides showing various historical views and plans for the area starting with the original plans for the city and working through the National Square scheme proposed by the Pennsylvania Avenue Commission in the 1960's. He showed the Commission several drawings including that which had been presented to them at their August 1975 meeting, a month before, in connection with the Pershing Memorial. That map had been prepared by the Pershing Memorial Commission and the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation to show their adjacent proposals. The Commission had not approved the plan and the staff was indicating that it was not of a high enough caliber to be acceptable in this critical location. The Commission reaffirmed this feeling.

The Assistant Secretary then presented a map showing the area with an outline of existing conditions showing new buildings on existing parking lots. Other than this in-filling, there were no architectural changes to the space. The existing street system had been removed leaving a simple rectangular space titled Washington Plaza. Washington Plaza stretched from Thirteenth Street to Fourteenth Street and encompassed the two fragments of E Street. The area between 14th and 15th Streets was indicated simply with the Willard and Washington Hotels in place and an in-fill structure between.

The staff map showed that buildings had existed on Square 226 through the Second World War. The Interior Department was recommending that a building be placed there as part of the PADC plan in 1974.

Washington Plaza as an architecturally framed space had been shown by L'Enfant, Ellicott, the McMillan Commission, and the architectural consultants of Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon during the design of the Federal Triangle. Several early Commission of Fine Arts publications were passed around to the Members depicting this type of scheme.

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary jointly described their proposal for developing a square on existing setback lines to avoid demolition of any existing buildings such as the Munsey Building and the National Theater. They showed several sketches which suggested design approaches to treating the center space in an urban, monumental way. They stated that it would be a workable solution whether Square 226 had a building, the Pershing Memorial, or was left in its present park condition.

The Commission examined the drawings and photographs stating

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their dissatisfaction with both the existing condition and the PADC scheme. The consensus was unanimous approval of exploring the scheme further with other agencies involved with the understanding that the Commission of Fine Arts would furnish no design and that the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation would be given the opportunity for introducing a definitive design.

E. Resignation of David R. Rosenthal from the Board of Architectural Consultants for Old Georgetown. The Secretary showed the members a letter from Mr. Rosenthal who had been a member of the Georgetown Board for several months indicating that he was unable to continue meeting the time demands of the board due to other commitments in his small architectural firm and within his own town, Alexandria, Virginia. The Secretary had asked Mr. Rosenthal to reconsider, but had been unable to change his decision.

The Commission unanimously moved that the appointment of a replacement be considered by a subcommittee consisting of the Chairman, available local members, the remaining Board members, the Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary. The subcommittee report would be made to the full Commission at its October 15, 1975 meeting.

F. Nelson Rockefeller Vice Presidential Inaugural Medal - Report. The Secretary told the members that reference had been made to a medal of non-distinguished quality struck in honor of the Vice President. There had been a question as to the official status of the medal. The Secretary reported that there was none and that no action would be appropriate.

II. PROJECT BRIEFINGS

A. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

1. Muhlenberg Memorial, Connecticut Avenue and Ellicott Street, N.W., Central Sculptural Element - Resubmission. The Secretary showed several drawings and a bust of General Muhlenberg showing the height proportions between the head, the body, and the pulpit base of the sculpture. The Commission examined the drawings, and Mr. Weymouth stated that he found the proportions to be acceptable. Further discussion was held later in the meeting with project representatives.

2. Stable, Fort Dupont Park. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings showing a stable for the National Park mounted



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police in the Fort Circle Parks. The wooden gambrel-roofed structure was barn-like in appearance and was not objectionable. Mr. Weymouth expressed some concern over the fire safety of the structure, having had considerable personal experience with horse barn design. The Chairman appointed Mr. Weymouth to express concern informally with the Park Police representative over fire protection provisions of the stable. Further discussion was held with project representatives later during the meeting.

3. Lafayette Park Comfort Station, Replacement. The Secretary presented a drawing and a model of a proposed replacement comfort station for Lafayette Square, directly across the street from historic St. John's Church on H Street. A poured-in-place concrete one-floor structure would consolidate rest room, maintenance, police, and information facilities existing in the vicinity. Several curved walls, a pedestrian passage, and a simple plan would be rendered in an appropriate color through consultation with the Commission. Further discussion was held later in the meeting with project representatives.

B. Smithsonian Institution

National Air and Space Museum, Sculpture for North Entrance. The Secretary reported that additional material had not been received by the staff prior to the briefing session. Project representatives expected to have a mockup of the sculpture shaft section later during the meeting.

C. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 76-9, 727 15th Street, N.W., Installation of Three Signs, Playhouse Theater. The Secretary exhibited several photographs and drawings showing a marquee with exposed bulbs and signage for the movie theater. He pointed out that the theater was within close proximity to the U.S. Treasury and was itself a distinguished piece of architecture. The exposed bulbs and an oversized sign as proposed would require an exception to the code restraints within the Shipstead-Luce area. The Secretary also pointed out that there was another theater directly across 15th Street, N.W. from the Treasury with oversized signage and a good deal of illumination.

The members examined the material and discussed the advantages of additional life and illumination for that part of 15th Street. Mr.

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Roche suggested that the monumental area was too important to encourage any additional commercial illumination or highly visible advertising. The other members felt that his points were well taken. Further discussion was held later during the meeting.

2. SL 76-10, 2525 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Office/Apartment Complex, Sealtest Dairy Site. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings, a model, and some photographs of a proposed commercial-residential complex on the edge of Rock Creek Park adjacent to several other recent and now completed office projects. He stated that the Commission had previously reviewed preliminary schematic plans and had made several suggestions including a dark brick, and avoiding an axial relationship between the building's center court and the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and 26th Street, N.W.

Current governmental restrictions and plans for the site included a new 90-foot height limit and the possibility of mixed use on a previously industrial site. The District Office of Planning and Management had proposed a scheme for closing 26th Street on one side of the project to form a continuous pedestrian space between the building's lowest retail areas and the park. Though there had been a strong movement within the Zoning Commission to establish a 60-foot height limit along the perimeter of Rock Creek Park, it had been defeated after a court battle initiated by the developer of this site.

The members examined the material criticizing some of the architectural details and the general park-front height. They also polled the staff asking for any general comments on possible improvement of the final appearance of the project. Mr. Jennings ventured that the court was too barren for the size, and reported that Cass Gilbert and other theorists had recommended against the use of more than three floors in the body (separating the base and the roof) when creating background architecture. Mr. Carson suggested that a maximum amount of mature tree planting and landscaping material could help the project immeasurably and help further screen it from the park. The members agreed that they would ask the project architect if there could be additional landscaping or a landscaping plan submission. Mr. Carson also questioned the use of brick as a means of expressing cantilevers. Mr. Arroyo and Mr. Roche supported the question. The members were to ask about this and also if it would be possible to reduce the vertical bulk of the building by adding space within the court. Further discussion was held later in the meeting.

3. Willard Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., SL 74-22,

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Remove Facade, Rehabilitate Internal Structure, and Convert to Office Use. The Assistant Secretary reported that the courts had directed the District of Columbia Government to forward this application to the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. It had been pending for a long time and through a great deal of legal action and was the same proposition which the Commission had recommended against because of the historical and architectural integrity of the building and its relation to Pennsylvania Avenue. The Assistant Secretary indicated that it would be appropriate for the Commission to reaffirm their action on the case and forward a copy of it to the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. The members unanimously agreed to do this.

D. D.C. Government, Fire Department

Proposal to Paint Fireplugs to Represent Bicentennial Characters. The Secretary reported that Woodward and Lothrop Department Stores had proposed a program to furnish paint and training for communities in the District of Columbia to paint their fireplugs to look like Bicentennial characters. The Commission had some general discussion as they examined the photographs of a proposed palette of characters, agreeing that this would be inappropriate for the monumental core. The members voiced little concern, however, over using the scheme in individual neighborhoods. Further discussion was held later with a representative of Woodward and Lothrop.

E. National Capital Planning Commission

Georgetown Waterfront Area Plan and Development Management Program, NCPC Staff Report. The Assistant Secretary indicated that the members had been mailed copies of this latest of a series of published studies and that the Planning Commission had sought the Commission's comments on this draft. The eventual document would incorporate all reasonable input and be submitted to the Planning Commission for approval. If approved by NCPC it would be presented to the City Government as a sectional development plan for the Georgetown Waterfront. The Commission of Fine Arts was obliged to comment on the draft because of its previous involvement in the study and the administration of the Old Georgetown Act.

Mr. Vanderpool was present representing the Old Georgetown Board and told the members that he had some questions about the scheme, particularly the heights. He hoped that all heights would be limited to 60 feet. It was agreed that the Georgetown Board would be involved in the review and that the Commission would report back to the National

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Capital Planning Commission.

The Assistant Secretary reported that there was some irresolution on streets and alleys in the plan. The Commission of Fine Arts had recommended that any plans attempt to preserve the historic street and alley plan, but there were some proposed changes in the NCPC draft. The matter of the Whitehurst Freeway tunnel-boulevard solution to crosstown traffic would probably not be resolved in the near future. The prime commitment had been to remove the elevated freeway across the waterfront - this remained a prime objective.

The Commission's suggestions about peripheral parking and public transit were not really answered by the draft and it was hoped that the matters could be discussed. The Commission's suggestions about using most of the river edge for public park had been taken. Further discussion was to be held later during the meeting with Mr. Martin Rody of the National Capital Planning Commission.

F. Redevelopment Land Agency

"Streets for People" Information Kiosk - Resubmission. The Secretary presented drawings and a model of the truss-roofed series of information machines designed by RLA consultants for public use at the western end of the "Streets for People" plaza south of the National Portrait Gallery. He stated that there had been several meetings since the Commission's previous disapproval of the same scheme about a year before. He stated that several alternatives had been discussed in the meantime and all had been rejected by the RLA. He also mentioned the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's challenge to the District Government's ruling that there was no adverse impact on adjacent National Register buildings.

The members examined the material, which confirmed their earlier impression that both the roof and the general character of the items designed to be placed below it were out of keeping with the area. Further discussion was held later during the meeting with project representatives and an opposition representative of the Smithsonian Institution.

G. Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Automotive Maintenance Facility, Bolling/Anacostia Air Base. The Assistant Secretary presented a set of drawings for this facility designed in the approved material palette for the post and located in

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conformance with its master plan. The building was tan brick with concrete trim and surrounded by a large parking-storage yard. The members examined the drawings, having no objection to the building design. Mr. Stone said that this highly visible and potentially beautiful site had been far underlandscaped. Its location on the Anacostia River in view from one of the monumental approaches to the Capital made it visible from all directions. He recommended a master landscaping plan for the post and careful coordination of it by the Commission of Fine Arts.

H. Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry

U.S. Coast Guard Awards:

1. Distinguished Public Service Award
2. Meritorious Public Service Award

The Secretary presented color renderings of these medals and the Commission examined them without objection. Action was taken later at the Commission meeting.

I. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Bus Shelter adjacent to the National Air and Space Museum. The Assistant Secretary presented a drawing showing a typical bubble-topped bus passenger shelter which had been proposed to go alongside the new Museum of Air and Space. He said that the Commission had previously recommended against such large street furniture items next to monumental buildings. He cited the example of an attempt to place kiosks in front of the U.S. Treasury. The Commission considered the site along 4th Street, S.W. and suggested that both heavy traffic and the bus shelter would not be desirable in this location. An action would be taken to recommend against the placement of this bus shelter on 4th Street, S.W. and the Mall.

J. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

New Agency Seal. The Secretary presented a full color seal rendering as well as a plaster replica of the Great Seal for comparison. The Commission examined the proposed design finding that using a derivative of the Great Seal was unacceptable. Further discussion was held later in the meeting when an agency representative was present.



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17 September, 1975

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman called an executive session of the Commission members only to discuss internal staff policy. The Chairman prepared minutes of this session.

EXHIBIT B

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles H. Atherton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO

CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH

JANE O. DART

EDWARD STONE, JR.

KEVIN ROCHE

GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

September 26, 1975

Dear Mayor Washington:

One of the continuing objectives of the Commission of Fine Arts over the last few years is the establishment of a park along the edge of the Potomac between 31st Street and Key Bridge in Georgetown. The land is entirely in the possession of the District Government, and is currently used for parking environmental services and highway department trucks. As one of the more noticeable eyesores along the river, it is highly visible from many places, including the parkway across the river, the Kennedy Center terrace, the tour boats on the Potomac, and, last but not least, the surrounding community. On the surface it would seem to be a relatively simple matter to clean the place up, get rid of the garbage trucks and salt piles, and plant the place with grass.

We understand, however, that part of the current plans for implementing a limited parking system in Georgetown presently contemplates the use of the waterfront as parking space serving the commercial districts of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue. I am sure you are familiar with the dim view the Commission has about "temporary" parking lots on parkland in Washington; witness the situation behind your office on the Great Plaza.

We would be much happier if such steps were taken to establish a parking lot on the waterfront only in the context of a master plan calling for park and recreational use at the earliest possible time on this invaluable strip

of waterfront. This plan should also include, in our view provisions for either a commercial or municipally operated parking structure, back from the waterfront but south of M Street. Such a facility would not only serve short term use related to the shopping district, but also absorb overflow demand generated by new development in the area. We urge this be given further study.

In the meantime, if the temporary parking plans are inevitable, the Commission would like to offer any assistance it can render in the area of design. There are ways in which the visual and environmental impact of surface parking can be minimized, and we hope that every effort can be made to use them to advantage.

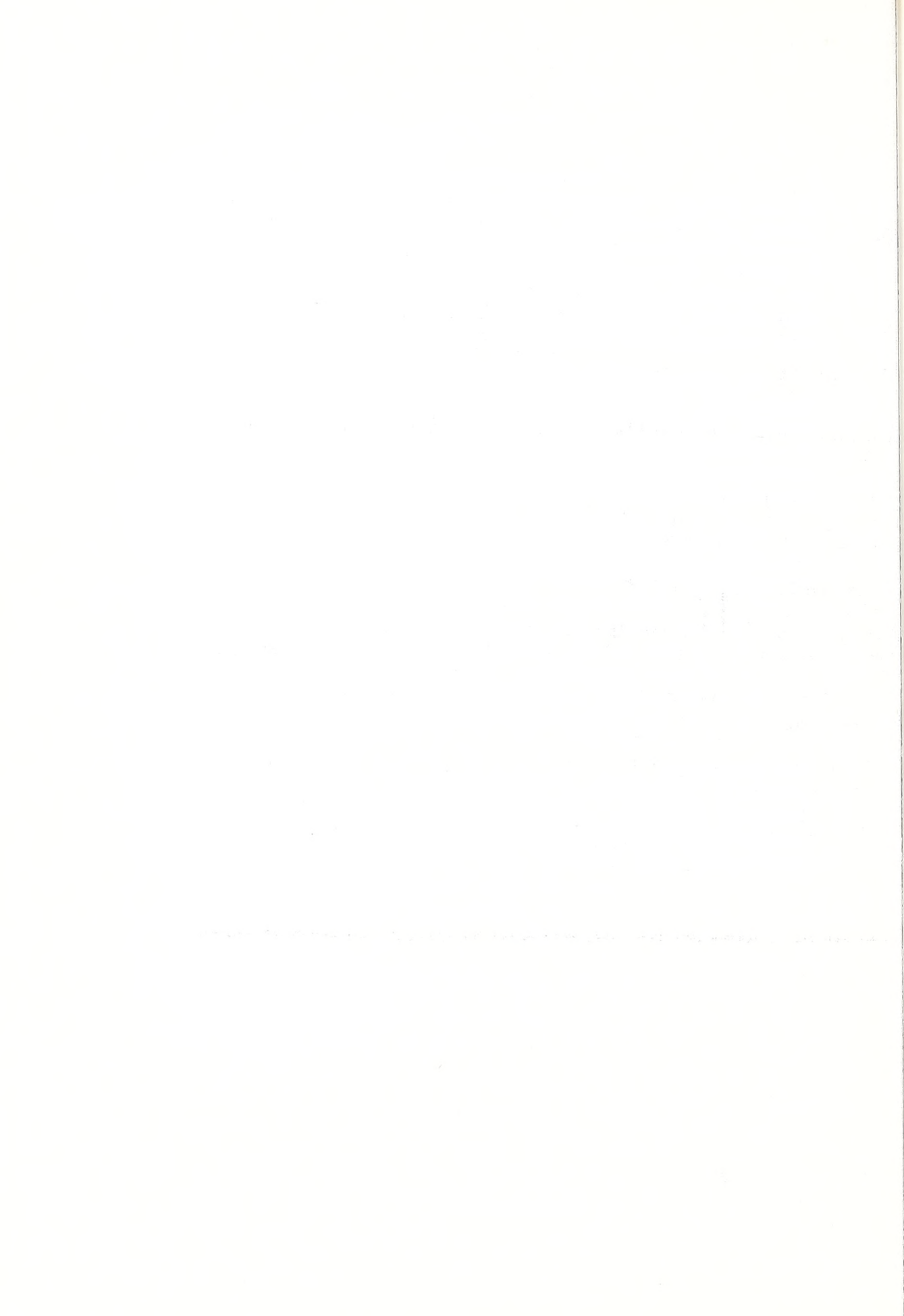
This section of cityscape has the potential of an excellent public amenity. We would like to join with you in achieving this goal.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable
Walter E. Washington
District Building
Pennsylvania Avenue at 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004





THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004

WASHINGTON
MAYOR

OCT 15 1975

Mr. J. Carter Brown
Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Brown:

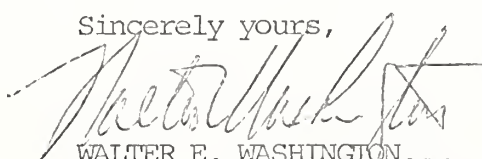
Thank you for your letter of September 26, 1975, suggesting that any further developments of parking on the Georgetown Waterfront be in the context of master planning for that area.

I understand that Charles Atherton, Secretary of The Commission of Fine Arts, has discussed this matter with the Director of the Municipal Planning Office, Ben W. Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert advises me that his office is sensitive to the issues that you have raised and is engaged in discussions about the matter with the Department of Transportation under Douglas Schnieder, Jr., Acting Director.

As you know, Georgetown suffers from an acute parking problem which can only be solved ultimately in an overall parking context. We are happy to have the views of The Commission of Fine Arts on the matter and will be taking them into account in connection with our response to the latest National Capital Planning Commission's report on Georgetown and with respect to other planning issues.

We would be pleased to have the assistance of The Commission of Fine Arts in connection with any further studies of this area. I am asking Ben W. Gilbert to be in touch with you about this.

Sincerely yours,


WALTER E. WASHINGTON

Mayor

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

cc: Ben W. Gilbert
Douglas Schneider, Jr.

OCT 17 1975

Exhibit A-3

NOTED _____

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS APPOZO

CHLOETHILL WOODARD SMITH

JANE O. DART

EDWARD STONE, III.

KEVIN ROCHE

GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATEBERSON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

October 30, 1975

Dear Mayor Washington:

Thank you for your letter of October 15th on the Georgetown waterfront parking situation.

Since we last wrote to you, the Commission of Fine Arts has studied the specific problem of providing for a permanent parking facility, north of K Street and next to the site of the future waterfront park.

The location we have in mind is presently the site of the abandoned D.C. Incinerator. It is an ideal site from several aspects: bounded by South Street on the north, 31st Street on the east, K Street on the south, and Wisconsin Avenue 1/2 block west, it is centrally located and highly accessible to the automobile and pedestrian alike. An alley, Copperthwaite Lane, directly links the site with Wisconsin Avenue and could easily be adapted to an attractive pedestrian entrance.

The topography is also very well suited to a municipal facility of special design. The elevation drops off from the top of Brickyard Hill to the level of K Street some 40 feet below, presenting an unusual opportunity to install several levels of parking without obstructing the view of this historic location. The top deck, which would be just a few feet above the present level of South Street could serve as an overlook park and a site for a small cafe. The prospect of the Potomac River is beautiful from this location. All parking would be mostly out of site on the lower decks. And finally, of course, one of the more attractive features of the site has to be the fact that it is already in U.C. Government ownership.

We attach several sketches illustrating the concept we have in mind.

Exhibit A-4

Certainly it is a better alternative than surface parking on the waterfront along the river's edge. I believe we all agree that this area should be a park, but the chances of it becoming so will be seriously diminished if the practice of using this site for a parking lot becomes well established.

The Commission trusts nobody wants to see that happen.

We look forward to working with Mr. Ben Gilbert on this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carter", written in a cursive style.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable
Walter E. Washington
District Building
Washington, D.C. 20004

enclosures



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

17 September, 1975

The Commission meeting convened at 11:45 a.m. in the Commission offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:

Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Nicolas Arroyo
Hon. Jane O. Dart
Hon. Kevin Roche
Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith
Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
Hon. George A. Weymouth

Staff Present:

Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
Mrs. Sue A. Kohler
Mrs. Nancy Lusher
Mr. David Miller

National Capital Planning

Commission Staff Present:

Mr. Edward Hromanick

I. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

1. Muhlenberg Memorial, Connecticut Avenue and Ellicott Street, N.W., Central Sculptural Element, Resubmission. The project was represented by Mr. John F. Harbeson and Mr. George W. McRory of the Muhlenberg Memorial Commission and Mr. Robert Romanowski of the National Park Service.

Mr. Harbeson explained how he had studied the exact proportions of the sculptural element of this memorial in view of the Commission's previous suggestions. The Chairman expressed the Commission's appreciation for the efforts of the project sponsors and indicated the Commission's unanimous approval.

EXHIBIT C

2. Stable, Fort Dupont Park. The project was represented by Messers Robert Romanowski, James Burrell, and David S. Lennox of the National Park Service. The Chairman expressed the Commission's

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approval of the exterior design of the project and indicated that Mr. Weymouth had made some informal suggestions to the police representative as to the internal workings and fire proofing the structure.

EXHIBIT D

3. Lafayette Park Comfort Station Replacement. The project was represented by Mr. Robert Abrash, the architect, and Mr. Robert Romanowski of the National Park Service. The architect explained his design to the Commission, with the Commission asking about techniques for possible height reduction and about the design intent of the exterior material. The architect indicated that an exact sample was not yet available. The Commission indicated its unanimous preliminary approval pending submission of additional materials including a site landscape plan and material samples.

EXHIBIT E

B. Smithsonian Institution

National Air and Space Museum, Sculpture for North Entrance, Mockup. The project was represented by Messers Mike Collins and James Dean of the Air-Space Museum and Messers R. Lippold and W. Neblung, the sculptor and the fabricator. The sculptor had mockup sections of the proposed sculpture. The Commission examined the pieces and asked some general questions about color and texture. The shiny gold skin of each section would have horizontal joints at fifteen-foot intervals. It was how these joints met and how the bends in the metal surface worked which had particularly concerned Mr. Roche at previous meetings. The Commission was satisfied that the sculpture could be executed with reasonable care and approved it unanimously.

EXHIBIT F

C. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 76-10, 2525 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Office/Apartment Complex, Sealtest Dairy Site. The project was represented by architects Edwin Weihe, Byron Black, and Roger Strassman. Mr. Weihe spoke for the project saying that every attempt had been made to accommodate the Commission's previous suggestions. There was general discussion about the possibilities of reducing the silhouette of the building on the park side, but Mr. Weihe explained the difficulties that would be involved for residential use if this were done. He agreed, however, to propose a restudy to his client. The Commission also indicated that they appreciated the efforts at blending the brick of the various projects along the park, but that they hoped the brick

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would not be very dark brown. Mr. Weihe indicated that the architects hoped for a dark red "Georgetown" brick. The Chairman also mentioned the desirability, if feasible, of exposing the concrete structure supporting the brick. Mr. Weihe agreed that would be an improvement.

The Chairman asked about having additional trees planted in the street spaces and the courtyard. Mr. Stone suggested a landscape plan as well as a brick sample be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Chairman asked for a resubmission, including a sight-line study from Rock Creek Park.

2. SL 76-9, 727 15th Street, N.W., Installation of Three Signs, Playhouse Theater. No project representatives were present. The Chairman announced the Commission's unanimous decision to disapprove the installation of exposed lights and oversized signs in this location because of its relationship to various monumental and historic structures.

3. Appendix 1, approved.

Old Georgetown Act

Appendix 2, approved.

D. D.C. Government, Fire Department

Proposal to Paint Fireplugs to Represent Bicentennial Characters. The project was represented by Mr. William McDonald, Ms. Kathy Larsen, and Ms. Betty Espinosa. The Chairman welcomed Mr. McDonald of Woodward and Lothrop and told him the Commission had had an opportunity to examine the photographs and descriptive materials. Mr. McDonald said the company would be furnishing paint and training community groups for this project and was not intending to treat it as a commercial venture. The Chairman indicated that the Commission appreciated the generosity of the store, but felt that the proposal was inappropriate for the monumental core of the city. Mr. McDonald said that his company would pursue other avenues of community service for the Bicentennial.

E. National Capital Planning Commission

Georgetown Waterfront Area Plan and Development Management Program, NCPC Staff Draft. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Martin Rody of the National Capital Planning Commission staff, saying that he was

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sorry the Commission had run out of time and could not do justice to his presentation of the draft. Mr. Rody suggested that if it would be possible to discuss the plan during the October meeting of the Commission, spending the proper amount of time on the subject, that would be agreeable to him. The Chairman concurred, saying the Commission wanted to give the matter further study, including a careful tour of the waterfront.

F. Redevelopment Land Agency

"Streets for People" Information Kiosk, Resubmission. The project was represented by Miss Jo-Ann Neuhaus and Mr. Lawrence Press of the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development (formerly called the Redevelopment Land Agency). Mr. Marvin Sadik and Mr. Douglas Evelyn of the National Portrait Gallery were present to oppose the project. The Chairman called on Mr. Sadik first who stated his personal opposition to any vestige of the information kiosk program. Mr. Sadik also reported his Gallery's opposition as well as that of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Press spoke for the project and related a brief history of its approvals and disapprovals. He stated his department was committed and contracted to proceed with the project and that he was satisfied that all possible alternatives suggested by the Commission of Fine Arts representatives had been studied and rejected by the department staff and the department's architectural advisory board.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Press for his presentation and reiterated the Commission's previous disapproval of the kiosk scheme. The Commission unanimously disapproved the design.

EXHIBIT G

G. Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Automotive Maintenance Facility, Bolling/Anacostia Air Base. The project was represented by Mr. Jack Dirks of the Chesapeake Division. The Chairman indicated the Commission's unanimous approval of the project with the suggestion that the Navy pursue intensive landscaping of the base on a Master Plan basis.

EXHIBIT H

H. Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry

U.S. Coast Guard Awards:

17 September, 1975

1. Distinguished Public Service Award
2. Meritorious Public Service Award

There were no project representatives present for the Coast Guard medals. The Chairman announced the Commission's unanimous approval.

EXHIBIT I

I. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Bus Shelter adjacent to National Air and Space Museum. There were no project representatives present. The Chairman announced the Commission's unanimous disapproval of the location of a bus passenger waiting kiosk within the Mall area, particularly next to a major public building.

J. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

New Agency Seal. The project was represented by Mr. Eagle from the agency. He indicated the agency's desire to have the most reasonable facsimile of the Great Seal eagle. The concept was approved, with the recommendation that the positioning of the eagle be restudied in the final design.

EXHIBIT K

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 15 October and 19 November, 1975, unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of July, 1975 meeting, unanimously approved.

C. Legislation, S. 64, 94th Congress, "To provide for the addition of the names of the States of Alaska and Hawaii to the list of forty-eight States inscribed upon the walls of the Lincoln Memorial." The Secretary reminded the members that they had been previously presented this proposition. Though there had been no objection to the concept, the design resolution would be very difficult, since there was no additional room in the present system of state names surrounding the memorial's attic story. The members confirmed their previous position.

D. The Chairman announced that the Commission was unanimously of the opinion that the Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Volume II study could not be printed until they had a chance to see the title pages, introduction, acknowledgements, etc., and sample building

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coverage. The staff was so instructed. Mr. Jennings and Mr. Carson said that galley proofs and/or xerox copies would be made available immediately after lunch. The Chairman also reported that in the Commission's executive session it had been suggested that the members be given an opportunity to approve all future staff projects and studies in advance.

E. The Chairman asked that the appendices be circulated in advance of the meetings henceforth. This request had been previously made by the Commission and all material had rarely been available in time for a mailing prior to the Commission meetings. The Chairman suggested that the material be assembled within the week prior to the meeting and sent by the Friday preceding the meeting. Mrs. Lusher, who was in charge of preparing the appendix materials agreed to this plan.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting and the members departed for a luncheon at the headquarters of the American Institute of Architects.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles H. Atherton".

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO

CHLOETHIL WOODARD SMITH

JANE O. DART

EDWARD STONE, JR.

KEVIN ROCHE

GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATTENTON, Secretary

700 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

September 26, 1975

Dear Jack:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on September 17, 1975, approved final design studies for the Muhlenberg Memorial. This includes the relative proportions of the statue and base, which was a matter of some concern in the earlier studies.

While this completes the review of the memorial design, we would appreciate the opportunity to inspect the final full-scale model of the statue before casting.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish
Director, National Capital Parks
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Exhibit C.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1916

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO

CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH

JANE O. DART

EDWARD STONE, JR.

KEVIN ROCHE

GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

September 26, 1975

Dear Jack:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on September 17, 1975, reviewed plans for the new Park Police stable in Fort Dupont Park.

We liked the exterior design; it is a simple, clean, rendition of a barn, and suits the function and setting admirably.

One of our members, Mr. Weymouth, has some familiarity with the design of horse barns, and he questioned certain aspects of fire safety with the Park Police officer attending the meeting. While we have no jurisdiction in such functional matters, it may be that this aspect of the design should be given further study before going ahead with final drawings.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish
Director, National Capital Parks
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Exhibit D.



THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO

CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH

JANE G. DART

EDWARD STONE, JR.

KEVIN ROCHE

GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATKERTON, Secretary

705 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

September 26, 1975

Dear Jack:

We were glad to see the plans for the new comfort station and information facility in Lafayette Square at our meeting on September 17, 1975. It will be a definite contribution to the park to get rid of the present structure and maintenance yard. Incorporating the existing information function in the new structure is also an excellent idea. It looks cluttered in its present condition.

The quality of the material, of course, is very important. Sand-blasted poured concrete can be very handsome if properly done. The design certainly lends itself to this material; the question is one of appropriate finish and color.

We would like to see a sample panel erected on the site for inspection prior to going ahead with construction. This sample should remain on the site for the duration of the project, so that adequate quality control can be maintained.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish
Director, National Capital Parks
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO

CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH

JANE O. DART

EDWARD STONE, JR.

KEVIN ROCHE

GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

700 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

September 26, 1975

Dear Mike:

This will confirm the approval by the Commission of Fine Arts on September 17, 1975 of material samples and the mockup of a typical section of Lippold's sculpture for the north side of the Air and Space Museum.

Our records do not indicate any final details for the base design on the terrace steps. We would like to review the immediate setting of the sculpture at some point before its final installation.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Mike Collins
Director
National Air and Space Museum
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560



THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO

CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH

JANE O. DART

EDWARD STONE, JR.

KEVIN ROCHE

GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACES, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-546-9924

September 26, 1975

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on September 17, 1975, reviewed the design for the "Streets for People" Information Center next to the National Portrait Gallery.

The design presented at our meeting was essentially the same design we disapproved on June 12, 1974. The Commission unanimously reaffirms its disapproval.

We believe the kiosks as well as the covering structure would be an intrusion in the new pedestrian mall in front of the Gallery and would seriously detract from the setting of this important architectural monument.

As we stated at our meeting with your representatives, we would like to be as helpful as possible and work with you as closely as possible on any alternative solutions you may wish to explore. At this point, however, we simply have no other option than to restate our original position.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Lorenzo W. Jacobs
Acting Director
Department of Housing
and Community Development
1325 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Copy to:
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
National Portrait Gallery

Exhibit G.

